

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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Electric Chair Failed; Willie Francis Saved Through Editor's Sermon

Louisiana Colored Boy, 17, Scheduled to Die May 3,
Saved Through Book, "Revival Appeals," After
Electric Current Failed

By VIOLA WALDEN
Secretary to Dr. Rice

The case of Willie Francis has received nationwide attendance. In the Parrish jail at New Iberia, Louisiana, he was to be electrocuted for murder May 3, but current for the electric chair failed to work, and he was temporarily spared. Someone gave him Editor John R. Rice's book of sermons to the unsaved, Revival Appeals, which he read and came to trust Christ. Although, according to present plans, he is to die June 7 before this paper goes to press, our thousands of readers will rejoice that he first found Christ and wrote to tell us about it. The letter from Willie Francis follows:

"New Iberia, Louisiana
May 21, 1946

"Mr. John R. Rice
Dear Sir:

"I have just got finished reading the book you have written. The name of the book is called Revival Appeals. It was very interesting in the book.

"You see, I killed a man in 1944 and was sentenced to die in the electric chair on May 3, 1946. I went to the chair on May 3. When the switch was thrown on me, the current failed to work.

"I am a Negro boy seventeen years of age. People say that the Lord Jesus Christ spared my life.

"I am writing this letter to let

you know of my decision.

"Can a murderer be saved if he repented his sins to the Lord? Will the Lord forgive him if he repented his sins?

"You see, I am a Catholic boy. I confess my sins to the priest. A Catholic person don't read the Bible. One of my sister's sent me a Bible. Since I got the Bible, I learned plenty of things about the Lord. I know I am a lost sinner. I took the Lord as my personal Saviour and am trusting in Him. The Bible say, 'Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven' (Matt. 10:32). I confess my sins to the Lord. I know the Lord died on the cross for my sins. I am still under sentence to die June 7. Will God forgive a murderer? Can you answer my letter? If you do, I will appreciate it.

"Sincerely yours,"

(Signed) Willie Francis.

Of course the editor wrote Willie Francis to assure him that though his sins might be as scarlet, they were washed white as snow when he put his trust in Christ.

These sixteen sermons to the unsaved in the book, Revival Appeals, were first published in The Sword of the Lord and this is a

(Continued on Page 3)

"Life Begins" Campaign a Real Victory

By FRANK W. SHERIFF

Chairman Chicago Union Revival
Campaign

Once again the Lord has demonstrated that He is more willing to do for us than we are to ask. Indeed, He meant exactly that when He said "Ye have not because ye ask not." Oh, for greater faith to accomplish greater things for Christ!

The united "Life Begins" campaign in the Chicago Arena was brought to a glorious conclusion last Sunday night when a great crowd heard Dr. John R. Rice's final message, "When God's Patience Wears Out." It was a stirring address that gripped hearts of all who heard and made the redeemed glad they were saved and burdened and anxious to win the unsaved to Christ. Over 30 decisions, clean-cut and definite, were made, bringing the total for the campaign in all services to over 2,000. In addition, there doubtless were 400 young lives fully dedicated to the service of Christ, wherever led of the Holy Spirit, and it would be safe to say that hundreds of Christians made secret decisions to serve Christ better and to walk more closely with God. Homes were re-established, family altars started, separated husbands and wives reunited, and many of the Lord's people given a new vision of their responsibility to witness and win others to Christ.

It was the first united campaign of its proportions to be held in Chicago in 28 years and was, in the opinion of those closely associated with the campaign, a complete answer to those in and

(Continued on Page 5)

FOOLS-- WISE AND OTHERWISE

By REV. H. A. IRONSIDE, D. D., Litt. D., Pastor

Moody Memorial Church, Chicago

I am going to ask your attention to two passages of Scripture, as I begin this message. We may turn to a number more as we go along. In the book of Proverbs, chapter ten, the last part of verse twenty-one, we read: "Fools die for want of wisdom."

And then in First Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 18: "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

These verses may seem almost paradoxical, but in the one instance God is speaking from the divine standpoint when He uses the word FOOLS. "Fools die for the want of wisdom." A fool is an unthinking, a thoughtless, a careless person, a person without true understanding—in plain English, a "simpleton." And God says these fools die, die in their sins, die under the divine judgment for want of wisdom.

In the other passage the word FOOLS is used from the standpoint of ungodly men who look upon those who have been awakened by the Spirit of the Lord and who have turned to God in repentance and have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, as though they were the fools. We know that is a very common thing in this world. We have seen people living in all kinds of sin, ruining their own lives and wrecking the happiness of others. Then when they came to Christ and everything was changed and they lived new lives to the glory of God, unthinking, godless worldlings dubbed them fools. And God says, as it were, "If you are looking at it from this standpoint, if any among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." So there are unwise fools, and there are wise fools! There are fools



Dr. H. A. Ironside

for the devil, and there are fools for Christ's sake.

I was on a ferryboat going from Oakland to San Francisco with a group of Christians. Among us was a dear friend of mine who played an English concertina. Our little group sat together in one corner and he played and we joined in singing. I even joined in myself, which is a very rare thing! But we were all enjoying the singing, 'til a man came up in a perfect rage, and said: "What do you mean, you fools, singing religious hymns on the ship?" My friend was an Irishman and he jumped right up and said: "We are fools for Christ's sake; whose fool are you?" The man looked at us and ran. He wasn't waiting to hear any more.

That is the question I would like to ask you. A lot of us through infinite grace are fools for Christ's sake. We are content to be counted fools by the world who rejected our Saviour. But those whom the world counts fools, God counts wise. WHOSE FOOL ARE YOU? Are you a fool for the devil, or are you a fool for

(Continued on Page 2)

A Soul-Winning Visitation Program

By EVANGELIST JOE HENRY HANKINS, D. D.

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Message given in conference on evangelism, Winona Lake, Ind.,
Wednesday, July 18, 1945, mechanically recorded.)

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"—Gen. 3:8-9.

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."—Luke 19:10.

"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."—Luke 14:23.

In Mark 16:15 is the Lord's last command to the church: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

I have divided my discussion into three parts. First, Why a visitation program; Second, How to get it done; and third, The reward of it.

I. Why a Visitation Program?
First of all, the whole Bible is a story of a seeking God, a God who is seeking for those who are lost.

Men Do Not Seek God

Sometimes I am afraid that we are prone to feel, as someone has already so pungently stated in this conference, that the unsaved ought to come to hear the gospel. Sometimes, we are very critical of

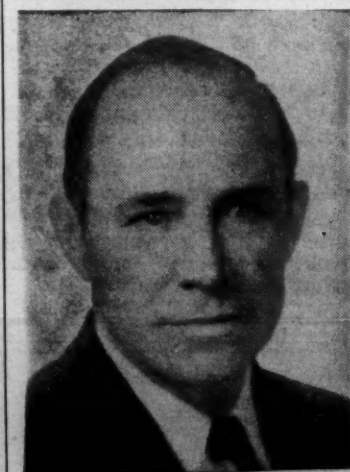
the unsaved because they do not come. But the Scripture says in Romans 3:11, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Lost men do not seek the Lord. They never have. This lost world has always been running away from God, has always been trying to hide from God. In the very beginning of the race, as soon as sin had come into the lives of that first pair, God left Heaven, came down in the garden and began to seek and call. If you will read your Bible you will find that the whole book is

a record of a seeking God. Somebody has said that more than six hundred times in the Scriptures you will find the invitation, "Come." It is the persistent call of a seeking God.

Men are Hopelessly Lost, Blind and Without Understanding

My second reason for visitation is the teaching of the Scriptures that unsaved men not only do not

(Continued on Page 4)



Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

VOTE FOR REVIVAL

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

God's people can have revival if they want it!

We all understand that there are some people who do not like revival campaigns and do not like evangelists. Modernists, for example, do not want revival campaigns, evangelistic services. They do not believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God as true evangelists believe it. They do not like to hear preaching on Hell and judgment such as evangelists must preach if they are true to the Word of God. The preaching of salvation by the blood and not by good works is distasteful to these people who talk so much about character and "The Jesus way of life," and about the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Modernists, not saved themselves, do not care about other people getting saved, regenerated, by coming to know Jesus Christ as

personal Saviour. Hence they do not want revivals.

The false cults do not want Bible evangelism.

Atheists do not want revivals of Bible Christianity.

Communists do not believe in evangelism and soul-winning.

Catholics do not believe in our kind of evangelism where people are taught that they can come individually directly to Christ and trust Him for forgiveness, without confessing to a priest, without going to mass, without belonging to the Catholic church.

The tavern keepers do not want revivals of Christianity. The more people get saved, the fewer there will be to drink beer and whiskey. The wine industry, the brewers, the distillers are against revivals for the same reasons.

The picture producers, actors and actresses, the picture show owners and operators, are against revival. The more genuine Christianity we have, the more separation from

(Continued on Page 6)

Fools-- Wise and Otherwise

(Continued From Page 1)

god? It is very interesting to run through the Word and trace out many different kinds of fools for the devil of which we read in the Bible. In fact, there are so many of them I wouldn't dare take time tonight to refer to them all. But there are seven that came especially before me as I was threading my way through the Book.

The Atheistic Fool

There is the atheistic fool of whom we read in the fourteenth Psalm and the first verse: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." There are a great many people who take that position, and they imagine they are very wise because they come to the conclusion that there is no God. But the Bible does not mince matters concerning these people. God says that people who say there is no God are fools. Just imagine anyone with common sense going out at night and looking up into the starry heavens, or in the daytime gazing upon the sun and the marvels of this world, and then saying there is no God! How did it all come into existence, then? Can you conceive of a universe without a mind, an intelligent mind, behind that universe? "He that formed the ear, shall he not hear, and he that formed the eye, shall he not see?" Surely. The wise in heart know there is a God, and He has spoken to them not only in creation but in His holy Word. If you deny the existence of God, don't pride yourself on your culture. Don't pride yourself on your intelligence. Don't pride yourself on your understanding. God calls you a fool. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

The Ignorant Fool

Then in the first chapter of the book of Proverbs and the seventh verse we read of another kind of a fool, though he is very closely allied to this one. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." That is the ignorant fool. God has spoken in His Word. He has given instruction here in His blessed Book. He has shown us the path of life. He warns us of judgment to come. He tells us plainly the way of salvation, and men turn away with a sneer and they say, "I don't believe that book. I don't understand it anyway." And they are only telling us what they are. God calls them fools! "Fools despise wisdom and instruction." If you have never given heed to the wisdom and instruction God has given in His Word, then this is His name for you tonight, a fool. I have no right to call you that. The Lord Jesus has told us that we are not to call one another fools. He said, "Whosoever calleth his brother a fool is in danger of hell fire." So I wouldn't dare use that name for you, but I am telling you what God says about you. He Himself who reads the hearts of men says, if people despise His Word, if they despise wisdom and instruction, they are simply fools.

The Opinionated Fool

Closely linked with this, we have the opinionated fool, the fool who will not learn anything because he is not teachable. Proverbs 12: 15 says: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." He is not ready to listen, he is not willing to learn. He understands, he has investigated, and he has come to a conclusion, and he is absolutely certain that his way is right and yet he is living in disobedience to the Word of God! This opinionated fool is shutting his eyes to the great realities of eternity as set forth

in the Holy Scriptures. He is a bigot and a fool. God says so.

The Mocking Fool

Then we have, in the fourteenth chapter of the book of Proverbs and the ninth verse, the mocking fool. "Fools make a mock at sin." Did you ever see a fool like that? When the man of God dwells upon the exceeding sinfulness of sin, when the one whose eyes have been opened by the Spirit recognizes the awfulness of sin against a Holy God, fools mock and jeer. They revel in iniquity "as if sin were sin no longer and life were no more vanity." One shudders today when he hears young people, young men and young women, some scarcely out of their teens, some, in fact, still in their teens, mocking and sneering in regard to things that a generation ago people thought of most seriously. Nothing is sacred any more, and these poor young fools, as God's Word designates them, mock at everything pure and everything holy. They ridicule the boy or girl or man or woman who seeks to stand against the abounding temptations of the day. They scoff and sneer if you point out that this or that course of conduct is sinful and wicked in the sight of God. They imagine they are showing their brilliance, their smartness, when thus they mock at sin. God says, Oh, no, they are just telling out what is in their hearts. It is fools that make a mock at sin, not wise men.

The Slandering Fool

There is a fool of whom we read in the tenth chapter of the book of Proverbs that comes home rather close, I am afraid, to some folks. The eighteenth verse of the tenth chapter of Proverbs: "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool." I wonder if any of us are fools like that! "He that uttereth a slander is a fool." We know it is not very nice to repeat evil tales about people, but I wonder if we ever faced what God says about this thing of uttering slander. "He that uttereth a slander is a fool." They that pass along an evil story about others, malign their character, seek to wreck their reputation, may think themselves abounding in smartness, but God says they are fools. "The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." It finds us out just where we are, and it doesn't mince matters. It calls us by our names and enables us to realize what God thinks of us.

The Unbelieving Fool

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke's Gospel there is a sixth character. In this instance our blessed Lord was actually speaking to believers. Sometimes real believers can do and say very foolish things. He says in the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke and the twenty-fifth verse: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken." This is the unbelieving fool, the fool who has the Word of God in his hand, who reads its testimony and yet who refuses to believe it. The blessed Lord designates such a one as a fool, or simpleton.

The Covetous Fool

There is just one other of these characters that I will take time to notice, and that is the covetous fool of whom we read in the twelfth chapter of Luke's Gospel. In verse 16 we are told that the Lord spake a parable unto them saying: "The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought within himself, saying,

What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

And now listen—"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is no rich toward God" (vs. 16-21). So our Lord tells us that every man and every woman who is more concerned about getting some of this world's goods, about getting along in life, about making money, about having a nice home, about enjoying the abundance of good things that money will provide, than he is about eternal things, is a fool. He who is not concerned about the home in heaven, who is not concerned about riches that never fail, who is not concerned about laying up treasure where moth and rust doth not corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal, is a fool.

I have often told the story, and you have often heard it, of the king's fool. In the olden days a king had in his court a jester. And this court jester was such an amusing comedian that on one occasion the king handed him a rod and said: "Look, I want you to take that. It is my scepter. I am giving it to you because you are the biggest fool I have ever seen in all my life. I want you to take that and if you ever find a bigger fool than yourself, give it to him." You remember the story, how years went by, and one day a messenger came to the poor fool to say to him, "The king is dying, and he would like to see you before he dies." And the poor fool got the rod and went to see his master. The master said, "Fool, I am going on a long journey, a journey from which I shall never return. I have called you here to say farewell to you." And the fool looked at him and said, "You are going on a long journey; I suppose then you have made inquiry about the place to which you are going and about the conditions that prevail there and that you have made proper preparation for it." "No," said the king. "I have been so busy I haven't had any opportunity or inclination to pay any attention to the life beyond the grave or to prepare for it. I am going on this long journey, but I don't know where I am going." The fool looked at him for a moment and then handed him the rod and said, "Take it. Take it. You gave this to me long ago because you said I was the biggest fool you had ever known, and you told me to keep it until I found a bigger fool than myself. A man who is going on a journey from which he will never return and doesn't even take the trouble to find out anything about the place where he is going, who is indifferent to his future and the condition of his soul, is a bigger fool than I am, for I have given attention to these things. Take the rod!"

Who can be a greater fool than the man who thinks only of feathering his nest for time, of getting along in this poor world, and forgets the eternity that is yet to come?

One day a young woman in a pensive state of mind was walking through a conservatory looking at the beautiful flowers, and she took a card out of her purse and wrote a few lines on it.

"To think of summers yet to be

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Veedsburg, Indiana

That I am not to see.
To think a weed is yet to bloom
From dust that I shall be!"

She laid it down by one of the plants and went on. A little later somebody else picked it up and wrote a few lines on the other side. The lines he wrote were these:

"To think when Heaven and earth have fled,
And time and seasons o'er,
When all that can die shall be dead

Then I shall die no more!
Oh, what will then my portion be?
Where shall I spend eternity?"

Oh, the folly of the man and the woman who are indifferent to the consideration of their eternal destiny! Dear unsaved one, if tonight the same voice that spoke to the covetous fool of old were to say to you in silence and the darkness: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee," what would you have to say for yourself? You know better. You know that Christ has died. You know there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. You know that God has provided salvation for you, and you have neglected it. God calls the man or woman who does that a fool.

But now we have the other side. We are told that "the preaching of the cross," which is God's only remedy for sin, "is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." And the Apostle Paul says that which the world counts folly we have rested our souls upon, and if any man desires wisdom, let him take his place in identification with the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter what the world thinks of Him, and he will be assured of that wisdom which cometh down from above and which guarantees an eternity of bliss. So he says, "We are fools for Christ's sake." We are willing for the world to look upon us as out of our minds, we are willing that we be accounted as the very offscouring of the earth because we have turned to Christ, whose precious blood alone can save.

I remember years ago when I was a young Salvation Army officer, we were conducting an open-air meeting, and a man stepped out and told how he had been a drunkard, how he had been down in the depths of sin, and how God in grace had spoken to his soul in the Salvation Army hall, and he, penitent and broken, had yielded himself to Christ and trusted Him as his Saviour. He told how Jesus had given him a new life and a new nature, and now everything was different. As that dear man was giving his testimony, urging others to come to Christ, a very well-dressed man in the audience who looked as if he ought to have known better, stepped forward and cried, "Wake up, old man, you are asleep, you are dreaming! There is nothing in it! Wake up! A little girl ran through the crowd and caught the man by his coat and said: "Please, sir, don't wake him up! Sir, don't wake him up!"

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The man looked at her and said, "What do you mean?" "Don't wake him up. That is my daddy, and before he went to sleep like this, he was such a bad daddy. He was drunk nearly all the time and he beat Mama and beat me and we never had enough to eat. But since he began to dream like this everything is different. Now he is so kind, so good, and we have all that we need at home. Please don't wake him up!"

In the eyes of the worldling that man was a fool. But he was a fool for Christ's sake, and he had the wisdom that cometh down from above. Friend, face it honestly for yourself. Are you one of the devil's fools? Or are you willing to be a fool for Christ's sake? Are you going on denying God and rejecting His testimony and priding yourself that you don't need to be instructed by the Word of God, living in self-righteousness and in covetousness and in unbelief? Or do you know Christ as your own personal Saviour? Oh, if you have never known Him before, you can know Him now. I would like to introduce you to Him. I would like to take you by the hand and bring you face to face with our blessed Saviour. I would like to hear you say to Him: "Lord Jesus, I am coming to Thee as a poor sinner, and if Thou canst do for me what Thou hast done for thousands and millions of others, I am ready to trust Thee tonight." He will take you up in grace and make you a new creature and deliver you from your sins and your folly, and He will give you the true wisdom that comes from above. The world will dub you a fool. The world will think perhaps that you are out of your mind, but you will know that you have the wisdom that is given by God Himself.

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WITNESSING

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A CALL TO YOUTH—**TRINITY COLLEGE FLORIDA**
"TRUE TO THE WORD"
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Electric Chair Failed

(Continued From Page 1)

sample of the work that God is doing through the Sword literature. (The book, 216 pages, sells for \$1.50.) Surely this is an indication that Christians should help put *The Sword of the Lord* itself and other Sword literature in the hands of as many lost people as possible.

Many Others Reported Saved Through Sword Literature in April and May

During the last two months, fifty-eight people have written in to report to us that they were saved through Sword literature. Twelve of these read sermons in *The Sword of the Lord*, were convicted of their sins, saw their need for a Saviour, and trusted Him for salvation. The other forty-six reported conversions were through Dr. Rice's books and booklets.

Some of the letters are as follows:

"Welsh, Louisiana
"May 25, 1946

"... I have been a Baptist all my life, and I'm now 18, but I wasn't saved until last month when I read your booklet about 'Hell and What the Bible Says About It.' I decided I didn't want to go to that place, and the only way to keep from going there was to turn from my sins and let Jesus come into my heart..."

(Signed) T. C.

WORKER REPORTS CONVERSION IN ENGLAND

"Birmingham England
"May 1, 1946

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Greetings in the name of our blessed Saviour!

"I have great pleasure in enclosing one of your decision forms. This girl is a splendid convert.

"She sent in a letter, saying how grateful she was for having received the book. Now she counts herself one of God's sheep. Well, praise the Lord, the work must go on. The day of grace is almost past, yet He is still Saviour. Hallelujah!"

(Signed) W. Darby.

(Mr. Darby sent with his letter a signed statement from a young girl, as taken from page 23 of Dr. Rice's booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" This statement solemnly declares that she is taking Christ as her Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all her sins, to change her heart, and to give her everlasting life.)

YOUNG LADY FINDS CHRIST IN BUS STATION

"Louisville, Kentucky
"May 4, 1946
"Saturday Night

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Last Sunday I happened to be in the Greyhound Bus Depot and came across one of those little tracts on *What Must I Do to Be Saved?* How can I thank you for helping me to realize that Christ is my Saviour, who died for me, a sinner? I want you to pray for me. I have read the book of Revelation and I do not want to be one of the ones to be left behind for eternal punishment.

"I have prayed to God to save me and to help me and He has. I have a dear girl friend who is a Christian and she is living her whole life for Him. I think that is a wonderful thing. I am sure that He wishes for more ones to preach the gospel as you do.

"Will you pray for me and for my friend, Mary —? I have prayed for you so that you may help others as you have helped me. I know God listens to my prayers. I have never felt so close to Him before. It is a glorious way to feel!

"Tomorrow I shall go to church to study about Him and to worship Him. Thanks once again for the way you have helped me to

see the right and only way!

"Yours for Souls,"

(Signed) Miss L.

(Some are putting in tract racks in bus depots and keeping them supplied with "What Must I Do to Be Saved?")

UNSAVED CHURCH MEMBER FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, SAVED THROUGH SERMONS

"Memphis, Tennessee

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I am very happy to tell you that I have been saved after reading a number of your sermons. The one I read just before I was saved was *The Pierced Jesus*. I will be thirty-seven years old the 31st of this month, and have been a member of the Methodist church for twenty-five years without having Christ in my life. I had been reading the Bible and gospel sermons most every day for two months and was very much concerned over my future. And on the tenth day of May, I asked God to show me if I was lost, and He did. I tried to pray but could not be satisfied. My sins were so great it was hard for me to fully trust God. But 'he instant I did. He saved me and I knew it. I went to church Mother's day and when the invitation was given, I went and confessed Him publicly and joined the Baptists. I want you to remember me and my home in your prayers and if you see fit to use my testimony, you have my consent for I am not ashamed to

claim Him before men.

"Sincerely your brother in the Lord,"

(Signed) T. V. S.

SERVICE MAN REACHED FOR CHRIST BY LITERATURE

"Enroute to Saipan
28 March, 1946

"Dear Mr. Rice:

"Have read your book entitled *The Last Judgment of the Un-saved Dead* and it brought me up short, at the realization that such great love could be possible for me. 'As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked' (Ezek. 33:11).

"Such compassion is the emanation of a Grand Divinity, and I declare myself, here and now, an adherent and believer in Jesus of Nazareth as my personal Saviour.

"I wish to live in truth and goodness—seeking, I pray God, enlightenment incessantly, to make my life a joy to God, through His Son Jesus, who died so nobly and lovingly for me, that I might have life everlasting. Thank you for your good work—you are richer for it.

"Sincerely yours,"

A — B —

HUSBAND FINDS THE LORD THROUGH "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

"April 9, 1946

"Dear Mr. Rice:

"Enclosed you will find a bill to pay for some booklets we would like, the balance to go to help spread the gospel. It was through your little book, *What Must I Do to Be Saved?* that my husband found the Lord as his Saviour. We are both happy to

know we are His children and have found many blessings since we have put out trust in Him. Our prayers are answered and we are growing in grace because we have seen miracles happen in our own lives.

"My husband was in the service in the Pacific during the many battles out there, but felt he would be cared for as well as he was at home."

Mrs. R. C. L.

Elyria, Ohio

Surely your heart rejoices over these happy reports. Is the Lord speaking to your heart to have a part in this work of spreading the gospel far and wide? We give away about \$2,000 worth of literature a month and trust God to take care of the heavy expense. He is supplying the needs. Perhaps He is speaking to your heart about helping in the work with your gifts or ordering salvation books to give to unsaved loved ones. Sinners are hungry for the gospel. This was evidenced during the past five weeks in the great Chicago campaign when over 2,000 turned to the Lord for salvation. And surely these letters you have just read prove it, too.

Here is how you can help: First, pray that God will use the literature as it goes out to those in darkness. Second, see what He would have you do to help in getting the gospel into the hands of the unsaved. If He impresses you to help in spreading this literature by your offerings, then they

will be used carefully and prayerfully, a receipt will be sent for each gift. If the Lord speaks to you to order some of this literature to give to unsaved friends, then write us and say how you plan to use it. Copies of the little twenty-four page booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved", which has been used to the salvation of thousands of souls, will be sent free, provided you give them according to our direction. They are too expensive to give away carelessly, but if you promise to follow our plan of giving copies only to those who promise to read them, accompanied wherever possible by a personal word, then we will send you as many as you request. Otherwise, you may purchase them at 1c each. Write us of your need today, or send your gifts to *Sword of the Lord Publishers*, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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For detailed information write:

DR. BOB JONES JR. BOB JONES COLLEGE

Cleveland, Tennessee

A Soul-Winning Visitation Program

(Continued From Page 1)

seek God but are also absolutely blind and without understanding.

To me some of the most touching words in the New Testament are found in the closing verses of the ninth chapter of Matthew where the Scripture says, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

One of the most tragic things through all the Christian era, even until today, is the fact that the laborers are so few. It is exactly the same today as it was that day when Jesus gave that heart-broken appeal for laborers in the harvest! They have always been so few. Do you know why the world is going to Hell? It is because so few people really care! How long has it been, my friends, even you Christian workers, since you wet your pillow with tears over a lost world? How long has it been since you, in agony of soul on your knees in intercession before God, wept your heart out because people are lost?

Jesus saw the multitude as sheep without a shepherd. Most of us know something about the nature of sheep. We know that when a sheep has no shepherd it is the most helpless creature on earth. I was reared out in the country, and we had a little flock of sheep. My home state, Arkansas, has never been much of a sheep country. But all of the farmers in those days had a small flock of sheep in order to get wool to supply the needs of the family. We had lots of open range country in those days which belonged to the state. Everybody turned his cattle and sheep out in the open range. A bell would be put on the lead-sheep, and the rest of the sheep would follow. We did not have a flock that was large enough to have a shepherd. At first we had an old-fashioned rail fence around our little farm, but the time came when my father was able to put up a wire fence. The sheep were not accustomed to a wire fence, and they did not understand when they came to it. Sometimes in the evening when they were on their way home and would come up to this wire fence, most of them would make their way around and find their way into the barn, but one or two that had straggled in would come up to the back of that wire fence and run up and down the fence, bleating, trying to get through. About sundown my dad would say,

"Son, you had better go back there and get those sheep." I would say,

"Dad, they are right in sight of the barn."

He would say, "Listen, son, you do not understand sheep. Those sheep are lost, and they will never find their way to the barn even though they are in sight of it. If you do not go get them, some timber wolves or prowling dogs will get them before daylight. You must go and help them home."

I think that is exactly what this passage means, "They fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd." They are lost! They are hopelessly lost! They are blind. Paul said, "But our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Cor. 4:3-4). They are helplessly, hopelessly lost. They are blind in sin. They do not understand. They will never find their way unless somebody who knows the way finds them. That has always been true.

Lost Men Must Be Sought Out

When the Son of God came to this earth, He said that He had come to seek and to save that which was lost. In the parable of the wedding feast the king gave this command to his servants: "Go

out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in." You and I understand that the Lord does not mean by that word compel that we are literally to use physical force to compel them to come in. The Lord does mean, however, that we are to be so earnest about it, so persistent about it that they just cannot keep on saying, "No," but after awhile will be so constrained by our earnestness, by our compassion, by our evident concern and love for them that they will have to come.

This is the impelling reason for a visitation program. They must be sought out. Somebody must find them or they will never, never find their way to God. There is no use in our saying they ought to have judgment enough to do thus and so. We must face facts and not think about what the unsaved ought to do. This is the truth that God Himself has stated for us. We can advertise, we can put on all the high-powered, attractive programs that we want; but we will never have great numbers of unsaved in our services unless somebody goes after them; unless we have a real visitation program in our churches and in our evangelistic campaigns.

II. How to Get It Done

The next thing, then, is how to get it done. The best way I know to tell you how to get it done is to tell you something of my own experiences in getting it done. In my own church, one of the things that I believed in and practiced most intensely was a real visitation program, a continuous visitation program. There is never any place to stop. There is never any place to let up: You never finish the task. There are always some who need to be sought out. It takes a long time to build a real visitation program. It cannot be done overnight. In the first place, it is difficult to find the people who will stay at the task and are willing to make the necessary sacrifice. My experience is that it is easier to get members of the church to do anything else than it is to get them to do this, which, after all, is the main thing. You can get people to teach a Sunday school class; you can get people to lead young people's groups. It is much easier to get women to stand over a hot stove in August and cook and sweat to prepare meals to serve than it is to get that same crowd of women to go after somebody who is lost. And yet, going after the lost is the main thing. I say again, we are willing somehow to do everything but the main thing.

How to Secure Workers

It takes a long time and patience and prayer on the part of the pastor to build an organization for visitation. He must hand pick the workers, he must lay it on their hearts, he must train them, he must live with them, he must organize them. He must stay with them and keep on staying with them. I care not how good the people may be, I care not how interested, they may be the best group in the entire church membership, yet the pastor must keep the enthusiasm up, he must keep them inspired and keep on pushing this thing in order to get it done. After awhile the enthusiasm of it dies out and they let down unless he keeps them inspired and stays on the job with them. It takes a period of years to build a real group who have caught the vision, who have had results, who have had the joy and have the passion for souls to keep on going.

You will have to start with a little group. Do not ever give a wholesale invitation for anybody who will, to come and do it. Select them, handpick them yourself. Watch them in their church life. Select a few of your most spiritual and faithful people to begin with, go to them, get on your knees with them and pray with them that God will lay the matter on their hearts. If you do, after

awhile you will have built up a group who will really do the job for the Lord.

How to Secure the List of Prospects

The next thing is to get the prospects. You must know where the people are. This haphazard, hit-or-miss way of going out to do visitation does not work because the hit-or-miss method usually misses. I have had a little experience along that line. I like to hunt. Particularly I like to hunt quails. But no matter how big the covey of quails that gets up in front of your dog, if you point your gun at the covey and pull the trigger, the chances are that you will not "cut a feather." The air may be full of quails, but you had better single out one and put one and put your gun on him before you pull the trigger. You understand what I mean, the thing must be definite, you must have the information.

A City-Wide Census

The first thing that should be done in preparation for a city-wide evangelistic campaign should be a city-wide census. No matter how big the city is you can and should take a city-wide census. This should be done with voluntary workers from the various churches cooperating in the campaign. You will find that Sunday afternoon is the best time to do it, and the sooner after lunch the better. Of course territory must be divided and assigned to each church group. Then each section must be subdivided and assigned to the workers. All groups should by all means do their work the same afternoon.

Cards must be printed on which space has been provided for the information which you desire to obtain, and the workers instructed to fill out a separate card for each prospect and to be sure to get all information called for on the card together with correct address. When the cards are turned in by the workers they should then be assorted into two groups: "unaffiliated church members" and "unsaved." Permanent typewritten lists should then be made of both of these groups and the cards kept to be given out later to those who agree to do visitation.

A single church should follow very much the same plan in taking a census of its territory. However it is my experience that the best way for a church to do it would be to employ two or three competent women and pay them for the work. Volunteer census takers do not always get the information wanted and do not go back over the territory where they find no one at home when they call. A church census should be assorted and placed in a card index file. Duplicate cards should be made to be given out to the workers.

Prospects From the Church Sunday School Family

Another way of getting prospects is to pass out cards at the church services and have the people give names and addresses of people whom they would like to see reached. Many names will be secured in this way that were missed in the census. Then ask the children in the Sunday school, whose parents are not members of your church, to give the names of their parents. You will get some very valuable prospects in this way. If a child is coming to your Sunday school whose parents are not members of your church you already have a very valuable contact in that home that can be used most effectively in winning the parents.

Visitors Cards

I would also suggest that in every public worship service, you take time to have the visitors in the congregation stand for recognition. Have your ushers pass visitor's cards to each of them and ask that they fill them out and drop them on the offering plate or leave them in the pew. Be sure that this visitor's card asks for information about their relationship to the Lord and the church. From these cards you will secure many of your most interested and most likely prospects. I have always used these visitor's

cards every night of a revival campaign. On these cards I always asked the question, "Are you interested in becoming a Christian?" You will be surprised at how many will answer that question frankly, "Yes." When you get that reply, you know you are on a warm trail. Somebody who has been in your service has put it down in black and white that he is interested in knowing the Lord. If this plan is followed you will always have a sizable list of "live" prospects, and the group that you have been training to go after the unsaved will have material to work with.

Preparation of the Workers for This Important Work

I said that the group should be carefully picked and trained. Take one or two or three at a time with you and let them watch you as you work with unsaved people. Let them see just how you do it. Urge them to watch every step. This is the best possible training for beginners. You should also teach them books on personal soul-winning. I cannot urge you pastors too strongly that you teach, instruct and train these groups carefully and thoroughly. The destiny of souls depends upon it.

In my own personal workers group when they could not lead an unsaved person to the Lord, I urged them to bring that person to me. I could not be all over the city, but I could be in my study for the making of appointments with my workers. They called me again and again and again. I was open for appointments day and night. I do not know how preachers have office hours. I see signs on study doors saying that the pastor is in certain hours. When it came to a soul for Christ I was in any hour of the day or night.

I also instructed this group: "When the visitors stand, keep your eyes open and do not miss a single one. When the service is dismissed, find out whether that person is saved or not. If you find that he is unsaved try to stir up interest. Then before you leave the building say to that person, 'Would you not like to meet our pastor?' When you have brought him to me, you need not tell me a thing about whether he is unsaved or not. Just say, 'Brother Hankins, here is Mr. So and so whom I wanted you to meet.' I will get the cue. I will open the way. The first thing I will do is to say to that person, 'We are glad to have you in our service this morning. I wonder if you are a Christian?' If he answers, 'No,' I will say, 'Well, I wonder if you would not like to go back to my study with me and let me tell you something about how to know the Lord.' You would be surprised to know how many went back into that study with me. A service seldom passed that somebody was not in that study following the benediction. I would have the worker who brought that one to go into my study with me. But my workers were instructed that—and here is

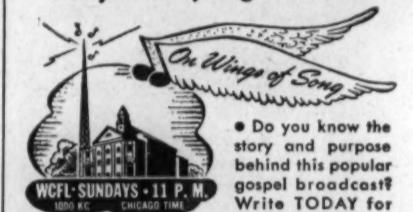
a thing you must do—no two must talk to a person at the same time. I told them: 'You sit there and pray while I lead that person to the Lord.'

That accomplished another thing: the worker had the opportunity to see how I, the pastor, did it. I had had more experience in leading souls into a saving knowledge of Christ, and I was also training a worker and letting the worker in on the joy of that experience.

Visitation During a Revival

I have always used the same methods of getting a list of prospects (Continued on Page 5)

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(Continued from page 4)

pects for a revival campaign as I have used for my regular church visitation. All of these I have already described. But in getting my church ready for a revival effort I always augmented my regular personal workers group with volunteers for an intensive visitation campaign. For example, in one revival campaign when I was pastor in a town of about seventy-five hundred population, I began several weeks before the time set for the revival to enlist a hundred people who would agree to visit one hour each day during the two weeks of the campaign. I wrote a brief covenant to that effect, placed it on the communion table and asked those who would agree to do it to come forward and sign the covenant. I called attention to it every service and had special prayer about it until the hundred people had signed the agreement. Then I placed another covenant on the table calling for another hundred who would agree to make at least one visit each day, unless providentially hindered, to come forward and sign. I got the other hundred. Now, visualize the possibilities in such a group of two hundred members of your church definitely committed to daily visitation during the entire campaign!

We began the visitation a week before the opening date for the revival. Each of the two hundred workers was given a complete printed list of the prospects, the territory was properly divided, the visitors divided into teams, and every prospect was contacted before the meetings began. An attractive folder announcing the revival and carrying a picture of the evangelistic party was left in each home. A good soul winning tract was also left with each person visited.

The evangelist did not get to our place until Monday night. But when the campaign opened, on that first Monday night we had over fifteen hundred people to hear the evangelist in that little town of about seventy-five hundred. Those two hundred visitors went out during those two weeks to visit in homes. In the second week of the meetings one of my women came to me, handed me a name and address and said, "Here is a place I would like for you to go." I went at about three o'clock in the afternoon to visit that home. Before I got to the door the woman said, "I'll be there tonight. You are the ninth person that has already been here today."

In a union campaign you can divide up the town by blocks or sections. Assign the territory to your workers, and they can visit every house in the town. There is no excuse for a revival meeting without a visitation program, regardless of whether it is a one-church meeting or whether it is a union meeting. You can always get more results by visitation than you can by anything else you do.

The Rewards

Let me close my message by just mentioning the rewards of it. The first reward is that you will have crowds to preach to. The second reward is that you will have unsaved people there who would never go inside of a church building unless somebody went after them. The third reward is that almost every time you get up to preach, if this visitation work is operating in your church, some of your workers will have come to you before you get into the pulpit and tell you that they have somebody ready to walk down the aisle. I want to tell you that it is going to help the preacher to preach if he knows somebody is coming down that aisle when he gives the invitation. Oh, the inspiration to the preacher, the joy to the worker! Oh, your joy will be full, and you will be growing Christians in Christ. You will be growing soul winners. You will be growing a people with a passion for the lost. And the reward, the reward!

A young man, a druggist, a member of my church, brought the city night watchman to church one Sunday morning. This night watchman had been in the hospital and had had an operation for stomach cancer. The doctor saw

"Life Begins"—

(Continued From Page 3)

out of the pulpit who have been telling us that the days of mass evangelism are over. It was quite evident from enthusiasm and expressions of opinion heard on every side that there are bigger and greater things ahead for Chicago. The foundation has been laid, the trail has been blazed, and we believe we can confidently look forward to another city-wide campaign of wider interest, larger attendance, better cooperation, and with more blessing and results, sometime in 1947, should the Lord tarry.

We have learned that Christians can unite in the Gospel and join heart and hand in the common task of winning men and women to Jesus Christ and calling back the straying ones. When one considers that practically all of the pastors and Christian leaders connected with the effort never before had any experience in a cooperative campaign of such dimensions, we believe that much was accomplished and that the meetings were from every point of view an outstanding success. We suppose that fully 150,000 people attended the campaign and that its influence has been felt in thousands of homes and hundreds of churches. It is to be hoped that the revival thus started will continue to burn and grow for many days to come.

The campaign throughout was of the highest possible order and quality. It was entirely free of sensationalism and clap-trap of every kind. The program was the very best and the preaching was sound, scriptural and powerful.

The music, under the leader-

such a condition that he sewed the man up and left him to die. The man got strong enough to walk around before the end came. One Sunday morning this young druggist walked into the service with him, sat down about four or five pews back from the pulpit near the end of the pew. I knew he was sitting near the end so that he would be able to get out when the invitation was given. When I gave the invitation that morning the young man leaned over close to the night watchman and earnestly whispered a few words into his ear. I saw the man nod his head, and presently the two came to the altar together. There the night watchman found the Lord. He stood in the altar of that church that day and gave one of the most touching testimonies I have ever heard. After the service the young man said to me, "I have had many thrills in life. I was for several years an automobile racer. I have had some hair-raising and thrilling experiences on the race course, but I have never had such a thrill in all my life as I got this morning when I led that man to the altar. What a thrill when I heard him give his testimony of salvation in Christ, knowing as I did that he would be in Heaven in a few days, and realizing that I had had a part in bringing him to Christ!"

These are but a few of the many rewards of a real visitation program. But one of the greatest rewards to the pastor, the workers and the church is a continuous harvest of souls from week to week. Yes, I believe that souls should be saved in every worship service of the church. There is nothing that will mean half so much to the whole church life and program. It will deepen the spiritual life of the entire membership, keep the fires burning and bring the blessing and power of the Holy Spirit upon the whole church. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind but that this is God's plan, and my experience has been that He has always put the stamp of His approval upon it by blessing it.

(This address, with other messages delivered by leading soul-winners and other prepared articles, make up the book, *HOW TO HAVE A REVIVAL*, of about 400 pages, soon to be announced by Sword of the Lord Publishers.)

With the Evangelists

By EVANG. ROBT. J. WELLS
Associate Editor

Dr. Hyman J. Appelman in Three Great Campaigns

Evangelist Hyman J. Appelman reports three blessed revival campaigns held in recent weeks. The first was in Lexington, Kentucky, sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee and fifteen churches. Nightly meetings were held in the auditorium of the Calvary Baptist Church and the Sunday afternoon and evening meetings were held in the University of Kentucky gym. The committee reports that there were more than 1,400 professions of faith with other hundreds rededicating their lives to God.

Buffalo, New York

The second Appelman campaign was held in Kleinhans' Music Hall, Buffalo, New York, sponsored by thirty churches and several laymen's organizations. Dr. Appelman states: "Many more than 1,000 professions of faith and many hundreds of rededications marked the results of the meeting."

Orlando, Florida

The third meeting was conducted in Orlando, Florida, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Churches and the Christian Business Men's Committee. Meetings were held in the Civic Auditorium. There were 829 professions of faith, 330 restorations and 51

ship of J. Stratton Shufelt, was outstanding, many soloists, musicians and groups making splendid contributions to its success.

The steering committee, consisting of 28 ministers and 7 laymen, are one in their conviction that God ordered and was in the campaign from its inception to its conclusion. The speakers in order, Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., Dr. Paul W. Rood and Dr. John R. Rice, are doubtless three of the leading evangelists of this generation. God-appointed and God-anointed, they came to us sent of the Lord especially endured for the occasion. The preaching was of the best and God honored it in a signal way. One of Chicago's leading ministers who was on the committee of the Billy Sunday campaign held in Chicago in 1918, and a veteran evangelist, well-known throughout the country and closely associated with the Sunday revival meetings, told us that even though our crowds did not measure up to the meetings in 1918, the results were greater and far better. This is indeed a real encouragement and augurs well for the next united campaign in Chicago.

Everybody is happy about the entire effort and as a result of this experience, we are persuaded beyond a doubt that a revival of mass evangelism is upon us and that we can now reasonably expect under God to see a genuine awakening among Christians, widespread and far reaching in the days just ahead. Please God, may He hasten the day!

transfers of membership reported. Evangelist Jesse M. Hendley Has Great Meeting in Bay Minette, Alabama

Evangelist Jesse M. Hendley reports a blessed victory in a recent tent campaign held in Bay Minette, Alabama. He writes, "God richly blessed and a total of 280 souls accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. At least fifty young people surrendered to the Lord for full-time Christian service."

Evangelist Rolfe Barnard Has Good Meeting in Freeport, Illinois

Evangelist Rolfe Barnard has recently concluded a good campaign with the First United Brethren Church of Freeport, Illinois. The pastor, Rev. H. I. Newell, writes:

"I am glad to report a very successful meeting with Evangelist Rolfe Barnard of Vinita, Oklahoma, here in the First United Brethren Church of Freeport, Illinois. More than fifty decisions were registered by individuals who responded to the gospel invitation. Few evangelists go immediately to the heart of spiritual need as does Rev. Barnard. He was mightily used of God to stir the church to a sense of its need. His messages are thoroughly Biblical in every way. Brother Barnard believes that revival can come to any local church where there are a few Christians who are willing to pay the price. It is to be hoped that God will spare his health and life for many years that he may be used in this needy field of evangelism."

Covell Keenum Has Blessed Results in Small Country Church

Evangelist Covell Keenum writes of the Lord's blessings in a recent campaign. He says: "I closed a meeting last week with the White Plains Baptist Church in White Plains, Alabama. The Lord saved fifty-two souls. The first night we had twenty-five present; second night thirty-five; third night fifty-five. From that time on we had a full house."

The house would seat three hundred. This church was only a quarter-time church."

Dr. Joseph Hakes in Detroit Meeting

Dr. Joseph Hakes has just concluded a revival in the Springwell Avenue Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan. Dr. George E. Barnard, pastor. The pastor reports that Dr. Hakes' ministry was blessed of God and greatly appreciated by the congregation.

Evangelist Kenneth Chapman in Newark, Ohio

Evangelist Kenneth Chapman reports a recent meeting in the Pine Street Christian Union Church of Newark, Ohio, Rev. Harold Doyle, pastor. There were nineteen professions of salvation.

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Are you content to be classified as six evolutionary levels above a toad? If not, get "JOCKO-HOMO HEAVENBOUND," "PUDDLE TO PARADISE," or "TOADSTOOL AMONG THE TOMBS," and see why the publications of the ape-cousin fraternity refuse to advertise them. Do you know what has happened to many churches, society, and the children themselves? "STOPPING THE STORK" discusses problems vital in a million homes.

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The Dennis Berl Lambert Memorial Library, endowed by Mr. O. R. Lambert and family of Crown Center, Indiana, has a three-fold objective:

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2. To publish Bible expositions written by Evangelist Orville Yeager.
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Vote for Revival

(Continued from Page 1)

the world, the fewer people will spend their money for the lewdness of the picture shows.

The dance hall operators and the people who patronize the dances are against revivals. If girls get converted and fall in love with Jesus Christ and set out to keep themselves pure and holy for Him and for Christian wifehood and motherhood, the dance halls will lose out.

Cursers, God-haters, enemies of the Bible, enemies of the churches, slanders of preachers, are all against Bible kind of revivals.

All these people who are against revival are against "The Sword of the Lord."

We are constantly being denounced or accused by Christian Scientists who say there is no such thing as sin, who do not see any need for conversion, and who do not trust in the blood of Christ. Jehovah Witnesses bitterly oppose The Sword of the Lord and, like Christian Scientists, go on spreading their literature by the millions of copies without ever telling people how to be born again by faith in our crucified Saviour. We repeatedly get letters from people who say they do not want The Sword of the Lord since it is so "narrow" in opposing lewd picture shows and dancing and petting. Worldly Christians who win few, if any souls, but have time for the lodges and have taken ungodly oaths, berate The Sword of the Lord because it urges Christians to come out and live separate and clean lives so they may have the power of God for soul-winning. We receive many such letters, and a number have cancelled their subscription because of our stand against such worldliness and for a clean Christian life.

The evolutionists fight The Sword of the Lord hard. And what stinging letters we get from modernist preachers every now and then because we insist that there is no salvation except by personal faith in Jesus Christ, salvation by the precious blood which Jesus shed on Calvary.

It Is Time for You to Vote!

You see The Sword of the Lord actually stirs revival fires. I believe that beyond any question The Sword of the Lord has done more than any other periodical in the land to bring back revivals. We have insisted and published it in all the nation that we can still have revivals, and now multiplied thousands are believing it, and thank God He is giving many great revivals in America. The full length sermons by the greatest soul winners in America as published in The Sword of the Lord continually stir the hearts of Christians, inspire pastors and evangelists and win souls to Christ. So if you really want revival, it is time for you to put The Sword of the Lord into the hands of all the people for whom you can possibly subscribe. If the devil's crowd is against The Sword of the Lord, God's people ought to be for it. If it is actually being used of God to bring revival, which it surely is, then you who want revival, who want to see souls saved, who want to see Christians stirred, should see that the paper has a chance to do its work in the hearts and homes of many thousands of new readers.

Every subscription you can send in for "The Sword of the Lord" is a vote for revival.

I believe in faith, but "faith without works is dead," says the Scripture (James 2:20). I believe in prayer, but God is not likely to listen to our prayers if we do not honestly do what we can to bring about the revival we pray for.

The people who are being most used of God for revival in America are boosting The Sword of the Lord.

Dr. Hyman Appelman again and again has boosted it in public and has written us the most kindly commendations.

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., sent a check for \$100 to subscribe for preachers.

Evangelist Jesse M. Hendley of Atlanta, Georgia, sent \$50 for sub-

scriptions for others.

Dr. E. E. Shellhamer, famous Free Methodist leader and author, paid for forty subscriptions.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot, president of Los Angeles Bible Institute, has written us his kindly commendation and made public announcement in Los Angeles in glowing terms that members of The Church of the Open Door and friends should subscribe for The Sword of the Lord which he reads regularly.

Rev. Clarence Erickson, pastor of the greater Chicago Tabernacle, founded by Paul Rader, and famous speaker on several radio stations, commended The Sword of the Lord publicly in Chicago and on several radio broadcasts, urging every hearer to subscribe and saying that without doubt The Sword of the Lord is the best revival paper published.

Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, blessed evangelist, sends in many subscriptions.

So does Evangelist Rolfe Barnard, greatly used of God.

And so do many others. I am saying that the people who really want revival and do something about it push The Sword of the Lord. If you want revival you ought to push The Sword of the Lord too.

By your action about this subscription campaign now on, you can take sides with the modernists, the Communists, the false cults, the drunkards and worldlings and blasphemers and infidels against The Sword of the Lord and revivals or you can take sides with the Lord and His best soul winners by helping spread the revival fires.

If you believe in preaching on sin and Hell and judgment and warning people of the wrath of God, then you should see that The Sword of the Lord gets in the hands of preachers so they will learn to preach on such subjects as other great soul-winners do.

If you believe in preaching salvation by faith in Christ, on the merits of the atoning blood shed on Calvary; if you believe in the virgin birth and deity of Christ, believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension and His second coming as taught in the Bible, then you should see that preachers and teachers get such teaching so powerfully given in these pages.

If you want revival, I say you can vote for revival by sending subscriptions to The Sword of the Lord. That kind of voting actually gets results.

Special Incentives to Subscribe for Others

The following are good reasons for you to renew your own subscription at once and to subscribe for as many others as you can now:

1. July 15 the subscription price to The Sword of the Lord will advance to \$2 a year instead of the present price of \$1.50 a year, \$1 for 8 months. (The Canadian and foreign price, now \$2 a year, will be \$2.50 per year.) We hope you will send all the subscriptions you possibly can before this price advances. The advance is absolutely necessary, but we want everyone to have a fair chance to renew and subscribe for others before it takes place.

2. We are now sending absolutely free a copy of the large book, The Scarlet Sin and Other Revival Sermons, 254 pages, with each two 8-month subscriptions at \$1 each. For example, you may send two subscriptions and get one free copy of the book; send ten subscriptions and get five copies of the book. This beautifully printed volume contains sermons taken down word for word as preached before great audiences over America and they are among the most thrilling and popular of my messages. The book, well sewed, has paper cover attractively printed in scarlet and black, and makes a beautiful gift. Especially popular with the very people you want to reach for Christ because of the subjects of the sermons such as The Scarlet Sin and the Roads That Lead to It, All Satan's Apes Have Worms, The Unpardoned

(Continued on Page 7)

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Does it matter to God about whether a woman's hair is long as nature grows it, or cut? Where is this discussed in the Bible? What spiritual lesson is symbolized by long hair in a woman? Why is long hair forbidden for men? What is the relation between Eve's sin and God's plan for women today? How is the sin of bobbed hair related to the fall of angels?



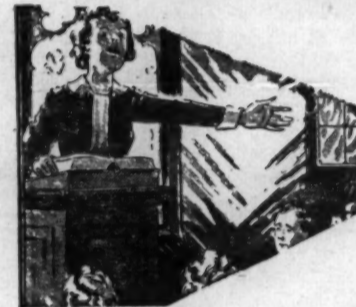
2

Should marriage be a partnership between man and woman as equals, or as between senior and junior partners? Should wives obey in matters of religion and conscience? Should Christian wives obey now as Old Testament wives were commanded? What if a Christian wife has an unsaved husband? Should she obey him? How does a woman's rebellion against her husband sometimes block the answer to her prayers?



3

What is God's plan for women in the church? Should women preach in the pulpit? Should they teach classes of men, mixed classes including men? Should women superintend Sunday Schools? Go as missionaries? Give missionary lectures? Pray in public? Should they teach women or children, sing solos or in choirs, join in prayer meetings? How far may women go in soul-winning?



These and many other questions are answered plainly, kindly with exact proof from the Bible, giving Scriptures you did not know were in God's Word! It answers questions so controversial that most Bible scholars dare not give you the plain teaching of the Bible. Thousands of unhappy homes would be made happy by a prayerful study and observance of the teaching in this book.

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"... For a long time I did not send for your book, Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives, and Women Preachers because I did not think I would be interested in the book. I did not think those questions were important and I did not think I would agree with you. But I find it is one of the most instructive, one of the most revolutionary books I have ever read. It is very much contrary to public opinion, especially among women, but I heartily believe and know that the Bible plan is the only one that works successfully. Mrs. B. did not want 'obey' in the ceremony when we were married; now she wishes it had been there. She says that her eyes have been opened to how false her former views were, and to a new and better way of living."—Rev. E.W.B., N.H.

"Please send me two books, Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers... I read one of my neighbor's books and it has changed my views and I have sent hers on to my unsaved husband in the army, resting on God's Word that it will mean a new marriage and Christian home relationship for us..."—Mrs. Bessie M., Washington, D. C.

"... The book that interested me most was the one by Mr. Rice concerning woman's status in the world according to the Bible. Believe me our home has undergone a few—quite a few—changes and we are all much happier for it. It would be a different world if every woman would read that book and believe what God has to say."—Mrs. A.P.B., Hingham, Mass.

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tor gave me Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers to read. It has changed my life completely and I can honestly say that since I have heeded God's word in my life as a wife, our marriage has been ever so happy. In a backslidden condition I married an unbeliever, but through the prayers of other Christian friends I was restored, and later my husband found Christ. Your booklets in the past year have enriched both our lives..."—Mrs. Roy L. S., Berlin, Mass.

"I just want to tell you how much we appreciate the message in that book, Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers. I have had more letters telling what it meant to their lives than any other book we have distributed on the radio program since Jan. 1. I wish I could place this book in the hands of every family in the country. It needs to be more widely circulated. We are going to keep a supply in stock here all the time."—Rev. L. R. Shelton, New Orleans, La.

"Your book has helped me oh, so much! I read it first, and Dr. Rice, I was alone the night I read it, and I could see myself as I read on and on, and I began to cry, for I knew I had failed my husband, but most of all, my God. I read it twice. The 'bossy wives'—I couldn't believe that those Scriptures meant what they said, but my heart was open and God knew that I loved Him and wanted to do His will. Thank God for that book and for God's Word! I believe my husband will be saved now. I'm letting my hair grow long."—Mrs. S.K., E. St. Louis, Ill.

Reviews:

"... Once the book has been read, it will go without saying that if only half of it should be heeded we would have better churches, better homes, and better parsonages than we do have..."—Grace and Truth, Denver, Colorado.

"... The personal opinion and convictions of the author are lost in the face of the clear Bible teaching throughout the entire book. It is not the question of what Dr. Rice believes or thinks, or what any other man may believe, but the question of obeying the plain command of God in the Bible. You may disagree with what Dr. Rice believes on certain questions, but you cannot evade, ignore or reject God's plain word and age-abiding commands, without paying the price for such disobedience."—Congregational Christian Beacon.

This is a lovely cloth bound book, 91 pages. Rich orange cloth stamped in gold. Book has picture of author's wife and six girls, separate picture of Mary Lloyds with braids and of Elizabeth with her long, wavy hair down before the mirror. Price, postpaid only \$1.00

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(Continued from Page 6)

able Sin, Why God Hardened Pharaoh's Heart, etc.

3. Those who send twenty or more subscriptions may have \$1 worth of selected Christian books for each \$2 sent in subscriptions at the rate of \$1 for 8 months each, or \$2 for 16 months, etc. These books are to be selected from our library list of great Christian literature. See last week's *Sword of the Lord* or write for a free list of these great books. Churches or Sunday Schools may get the subscriptions and send them in to secure these famous and popular Christian books for Sunday School or church libraries. Or an individual may take the subscriptions of others and get the books as a free library for himself. Some of you liberal Christians will want to subscribe for all the families in your churches and get books for yourselves or for your pastors or for your Sunday School libraries. Others of you will send subscriptions to all the pastors in town, or to a list of Sunday School teachers and church officers who could be so greatly blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*. Remember that by sending twenty or more subscriptions you can get \$1 worth of free books for every \$2 worth of subscriptions at \$1 for 8 months, if it is done before July 15. You may send ahead what subscriptions you have and send others later.

If you do not have in mind people who would like to receive *The Sword of the Lord*, if you will send us \$20, we will send the subscriptions to twenty preachers whose names we have, and send you \$10 worth of books. It will be easier to send subscriptions for others now than after the subscription price advances July 15.

I have spent nearly twelve years of unceasing toil and prayer in building *The Sword of the Lord* into the soul-winning agency, the revival influence it now is. Mrs. Rice and I have now put over \$20,000 into this Christian paper which we could have spent for a home or for nicer clothing, for travel or vacations and pleasure. I carried the load when it was unpopular. Only God knows the burden it has been. He also knows the joy of my heart that I was permitted to carry on this great work. Now I believe it is time for all those who believe in what I stand for to vote with me by spreading *The Sword of the Lord*. I believe it is time for those who want revival to say so and prove it. If we can put *The Sword of the Lord* into tens of thousands of new homes, and if my readers will renew your own subscription, I believe it will do more to bring about a mighty revival than any other one single agency. In Christ's dear name and for the sake of His work, I call on every reader to send as many subscriptions as you can and to do it at once. Renew your own subscription for as long as you can at \$1 for 8 months, or 16 months for \$2, etc., and get a free book, *The Scarlet Sin and Other Revival Sermons* with each \$2 worth of subscriptions on that basis. (In Canada \$1 will only pay for 6 months, \$2 a year.)

Evidences of Great Popularity of "The Sword of the Lord"

Within the last few days we have received letters from forty-two teachers in Christian institutions, saying, in answer to a letter from me, that they especially wanted *The Sword of the Lord*.

In the last three or four days of the great Chicago campaign just closed, 487 subscribed for *The Sword of the Lord*.

Dr. J. H. Hooks, pastor First Baptist Church, Rayville, Louisiana, wrote to us under date of May 27, saying:

"I am one of the many happy readers of *The Sword of the Lord*

and many of your wonderful books also. To me this paper is the most helpful religious periodical which I have had the privilege of reading. It has more truth per square inch packed into it than any other publication of its kind that I read. You undoubtedly have a grip on the truth and teachings of God's Word as few men who have ever lived. The sermon material is wonderful. Message after message literally grips my soul and I thank God I got started to reading the publication..."

Evangelist G. Covell Keenum of Decatur, Alabama, has just written saying:

"Brother Rice, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and you have given me confidence to preach and live what you preach. I wouldn't take \$500 a year for *The Sword of the Lord*, and do without it."

The joy of Christians who first get acquainted with *The Sword of the Lord* is often touching and inspiring. Multiplied thousands would devoutly thank God if someone should subscribe for them to this wonderful paper upon which God in His great mercy, has breathed with power and blessing. Surely, surely you ought to help bless others by sending them *The Sword of the Lord*.

Coming Blessings

Over 2,000 people made public profession of faith in Christ in the tremendous revival campaign in Chicago where Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., Dr. Paul Rood and I preached in the last five weeks. In one great children's service, there were 267 professions of faith. Night after night thirty or forty converts would stream down the aisles to claim Christ as Saviour, most of them men and women. In one service about fifteen Catholics were saved. One night a man eighty-two years old was converted; the next night a man of eighty. Drunkards, fallen women were saved. White people, Negroes, one Indian, Syrians, Jews were saved. Businessmen and society women were sav-

ed alongside some who were very poor. And here is a matter of great interest to you: Every sermon by Dr. Bob Jones in his first two weeks in the Arena was recorded mechanically for *The Sword of the Lord* and is available for publication. Every sermon by Dr. Paul Rood in the Arena was likewise taken. My own sermons which have not been published heretofore, were recorded likewise and readers will read my "Sermon From A Catholic Bible," my sermon, "Father, Mother, Home and Heaven," and my Saturday night sermon on Daniel, preached before nearly 5,000 people. God blessed these messages and readers will want them.

Do It Now

If your heart is on the side of revivals, on the side of New Testament Christianity, then now is the time to show it. If you would vote for revivals, then send subscriptions, as many as you can, and at once. I believe that God would be greatly honored if thousands would use tithe money to send subscriptions and thus spread the gospel.

Please remember to mark each subscription "new" or "renewal." Write names and addresses carefully, or print them. Remember you will get one copy of the book, *The Scarlet Sin and Other Sermons* free with two 8-month subscriptions at \$1 each or for one 16-month subscription at \$2 and will get additional books for additional subscriptions at the same rate. Or if you send twenty or more subscriptions, you may take advantage of our library plan and select \$1 worth of books from our library list for each \$2 sent with subscriptions. It is time to vote! Will you vote for revivals? Will you join me and others who are working night and day to win souls by helping spread *The Sword of the Lord*? Then God bless you, dear brother, dear sister!

Write *Sword of the Lord* Publishers, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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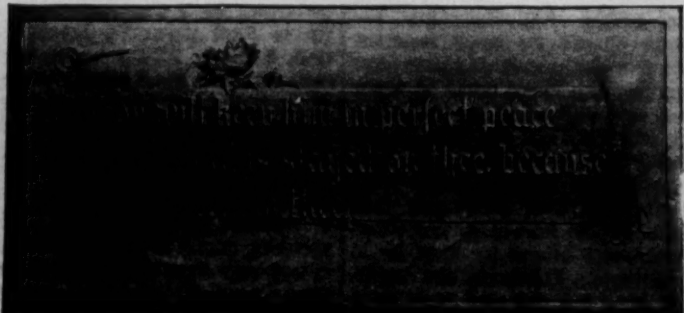
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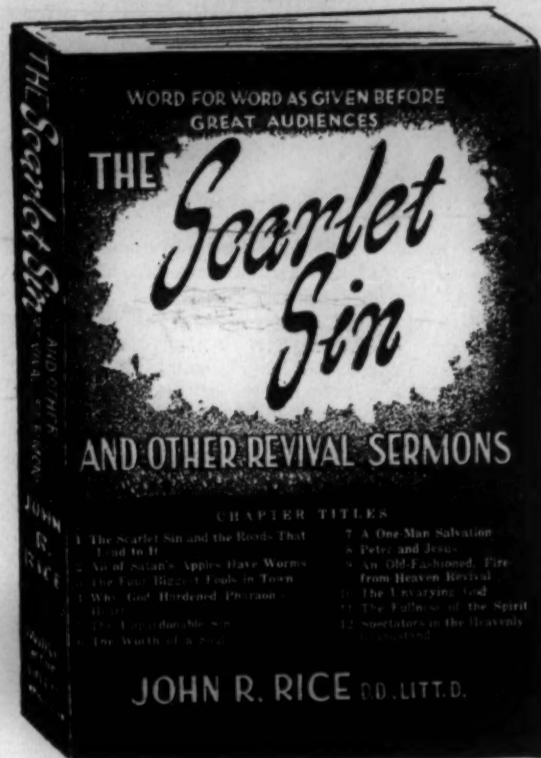
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Get this book free with two subscriptions, eight months each. Send \$2.00 for the two subscriptions, and the book will be sent you by return mail. It is already in hand, ready to mail the day your order is received, God willing. Please send as many subscriptions as you can. You will get one copy of the free book, *The Scarlet Sin and Other Revival Sermons*, with each two subscriptions, eight months each, for \$1.00 (a total of \$2.00 for two subscriptions). Or you may advance your own subscription as far as you like at \$1.00 for each eight months and get a free copy of the book for sixteen months' subscription at \$2.00. For your convenience we have a coupon listed below. Please fill in names and addresses carefully, be sure to say where these premium books are to be sent.

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They Read Articles on "Tongues"

By the Editor

Three recent articles in *The Sword of the Lord* on speaking with tongues aroused great interest and we had a good many letters commenting on those articles, some favorably and some unfavorably.

First of all, to the number of people who inquired whether these articles would be put in pamphlet form for wide distribution, let us say that it is planned to prepare a kindly pamphlet of Bible teaching on this subject. It will be announced, God willing, in *The Sword of the Lord* when ready.

I am grateful to the number of pastors who wrote me with kindly comments on these articles. Other Christians wrote to say that many problems have been cleared up in their minds by prayerful study of my articles on the tongue question.

There were, naturally, some letters from people grieved or offended by the articles. And these letters from people offended by the articles on tongues, when carefully and prayerfully read, are the best evidence of need for some clear and kindly Bible teaching on this subject.

For example, one preacher wrote, greatly offended at my articles since he said they attack "the main doctrine" of his denomination. Now if speaking in tongues, which even in Bible times was the least and last of the gifts of the Spirit, is made the main doctrine of some denomination, then that certainly is an un-Scriptural overemphasis on speaking in tongues. Read the list of gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12:8-10 and again in verse 28 and see that speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues are the last and least of the gifts. And I Corinthians 14:1 says that we are to "desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." And Paul said by divine inspiration, "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words in my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue" (I Cor. 14:19). Obviously, speaking in tongues, is in the New Testament, a very minor matter. For any church to make it the main doctrine is certainly fanaticism and calls for some clear Bible teaching and loving remonstrance.

The issue I would raise everywhere is that soul-winning power is far more important than tongues and this is the evidence of the fullness of the Spirit. For Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The undue emphasis on the tongues question was illustrated by a number of other letters I received. For example, one woman writes, "I have never known anyone to have the seal of the Holy Spirit without the initial evidence of speaking in another tongue." Now she should know that the sealing of the Spirit comes with salvation and the fullness of the Spirit for soul-winning power is another matter. But whichever she means, she is surely utterly mistaken in her conclusion. If she means that no one was ever saved without speaking in tongues, then she is obviously wrong. If she means that no one was ever filled with the Holy Spirit and anointed for service without speaking in tongues, then she ignores all the soul winners of history including Moody, Spurgeon, Finney, Billy Sunday, J. Wilbur Chapman, Gipsy Smith, Hyman Appelmann, H. A. Ironside, L. R. Scarborough, George W. Truett, and others. Soul-winning power, the fullness of the Holy Spirit, certainly does not depend upon speaking in tongues. And people who have been so mistaught are certainly fanatical and need kindly teaching.

One man wrote me that all great soul winners have spoken in tongues and he named Gipsy Smith. Some years ago a man wrote me that D. L. Moody spoke in tongues. Both of these are mistaken. The simple truth is that

none of the well-known worldwide, interdenominational evangelists have spoken in tongues or believed in it. I do not mean that many of the Pentecostal group of people are not soul winners, but none of them have been interdenominational and worldwide in their soul-winning influence. I am not saying that speaking in tongues keeps people from winning souls. I am simply saying that not speaking with tongues does not prevent people from winning souls.

A few letters have come from people who took for granted that I am against the power of the Holy Spirit, but they did not read the articles carefully. I believe in a definite anointing or filling or gift of the Holy Spirit. Call it baptism of the Spirit, if you will. I believe that Christians can have a definite endowment of power from on high to win souls. I do not believe that speaking in tongues is the evidence of it. I believe in a clean and separated life, as much as do my brethren of the Pentecostal movement. I believe in God's wonderful answers to prayer. I believe in great revivals and miraculous power from Heaven on God's people for His work. But I say the emphasis ought to be on the power of the Holy Spirit to do God's work and not on some outward show that will please the sensual nature and give people something to brag about before others.

I do not say that these friends do not have a gift of tongues, and I do not say that God could not give, nor even that He does not give, the gift of tongues today. I simply say that if God does give such gifts He will give them, as He did in Bible times, for real reasons, to give the gospel to people who could not otherwise understand it. I simply insist on keeping first things first. The power of God to win souls should come first with every Christian. Tongues are the least of all the gifts. The gift of tongues is easily simulated. People who are emotional and depend upon their feelings more than upon the Word of God often want visions and dreams and signs and tongues. But all of us will do well to keep first the Word of God. It made me sad to get letters from people who objected to the tongues articles simply on the basis that they had a certain experience or feeling. No Christian should ever put human experience opposed to the Word of God.

There are some very happy letters in response to these articles of mine in *The Sword of the Lord* on the tongues question. This morning a letter comes from a pastor, saying:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"It now seems to me after reading your three messages relative to 'tongues' that the more I commune with you the more I realize we are brothers in Christ. I do greatly appreciate the loving and kind manner you handle this question which is so misunderstood. Yes, and I must confess that I, too, had misunderstood."

Then this letter, from a preacher, continued (for he is a preacher), telling how he was led into this tongues movement because of a hungry heart for blessing and power and because of the coldness in other churches. So many, many other people are hungry for the power of God upon them and so often they are led to compromise for tongues instead of power.

Let me say again that power-

lessness is worse than fanaticism. And not to be concerned for the power of God is worse than seeking to talk in tongues. I trust that everywhere readers will feel their need for the power of God, for the joy of the Lord, the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and for the anointing from Heaven, the filling of the Spirit, that prepares God's people to do God's work in soul winning.

A Kindly Pentecostal Pastor's Questions Answered

It is always a joy to hear from those who love the Lord. Even those who differ from us on some minor matters but who believe in the Book and in the blood are dear to us and their counsel appreciated and their prayers coveted.

An Assembly of God pastor in California wrote me a most kindly letter with some questions and kindly criticisms about recent articles on tongues in *The Sword of the Lord*. I am sure that he would not mind me publishing my answer here without giving his name, and perhaps others have in mind the same questions which our brother asked. My letter to him follows:

April 27, 1946.

Rev. J. R. E.—
Dear Brother:

I was glad to have your letter and will answer as to a Christian brother.

First of all, let me say that I thank God for Pentecostal groups who believe the Bible is God's Word, just as I do; who believe that God answers prayer; who believe in revivals; who believe in genuine conversion, the new birth; and who believe in the fullness and power of the Spirit of God.

You say, "There are thousands of God's people who are walking and living in the Spirit and to them the flesh and fanaticism is repulsive and easily detected."

I thank God that I, too, am, by His mercy, walking in the Spirit, though not nearly so perfectly as I long to do. But I do know that the power of God is upon me, that I have the comfort of the Holy Ghost, that He guides me into the truth, that He helps me to pray, that He saves thousands of souls under my poor ministry. So I am not arguing at all against the power of the Holy Spirit.

I will try to answer your questions consecutively.

1. You say, "You said that our speaking in tongues today should be a language learned by the educated." You misunderstood the article and should have read it more carefully. Some people learn a language as babies in the home. But if they learn many other foreign languages they usually do it in the schools as a matter of education. What I said was that the speaking in tongues in Acts, the second chapter, was clearly the speaking in other languages that other people learned. That is exactly what the Scripture there teaches and of course you do not deny that. It was not a Heavenly or unknown language, but in languages known to people of those particular nationalities, but unknown to others, in which the disciples spoke at Pentecost. But they were given the power miraculously to speak in these other common languages known to whole races of people, though these particular disciples had not known those languages before. In Corinth there arose a bad practice that was not according to God's plan and which Paul had to rebuke. He said in I Corinthians 14:23: "If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?" It is obvious that here their trouble is that people were talking in other languages that would not be known by unlearned people, but languages that could be learned. However, the Scripture does not say that they were speaking in miraculous tongues, but rather that they were simply speaking foreign languages, showing off in church. The rebuke and the rules for control of

tongues in I Corinthians 14 would

apply to foreign languages in the church, even though they were not given by the Holy Spirit.

Of course I did not say and did not mean there was no such thing as a gift of the Holy Spirit, the power to talk in some particular language. First Corinthians 12:10 plainly tells us that the Holy Spirit did, in some cases, give the gift of tongues to people and the gift of interpretation. But that is not what Paul was rebuking in I Corinthians 14. Paul would not have had to rebuke them if what they had was a miracle from God. God does not give miracles and let people use them wrongly. Not one time in the Bible is there a record of anybody who was given by God the power to work a miracle and then use it wrongly. God gives miracles only according to His own honor and glory, and what the people at Corinth had when they were having their various languages in the church and Paul had to rebuke them in the fourteenth chapter of I Corinthians, was not miraculous at all and not a gift of the Spirit. I am not against gifts of the Spirit. But I am against imitating gifts of the Spirit, and I am against putting the smallest of the gifts first. Surely with that you would agree.

2. You asked for an explanation of I Corinthians 14:2: "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto man, but unto God; for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."

Again, remember that what Paul was, by the Holy Spirit, rebuking in the church in Corinth was not the gift of tongues given by the Holy Spirit but the use of foreign languages not given by the Holy Spirit. And if a man simply got up and praised God in the church in a foreign language, a language which was unknown to everybody else present, why then of course only God would understand him. Such a man might be filled with the Spirit, but it would not be the Spirit giving him the foreign language; for the Holy Spirit never does anything wrong, never makes any mistake. But men who are really saved, really have a testimony for God, might foolishly give their testimony in a foreign language unknown to those present. It would not do any good. That is, he would not be speaking unto men but unto God only, since only God could understand him if those present did not understand his foreign language. And notice that that is rebuked, and not encouraged, in I Corinthians 14.

In the same way I want you to notice I Corinthians 14:4: "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." The point is that anybody who gets up and talks in church in a foreign language which no one understands, enjoys it himself; but a man who speaks to the church in language they understand helps and blesses the whole church, which Paul says is far better. In other words, Paul is plainly forbidding people to speak in foreign languages that are not understood by those present, in a church. A man might enjoy showing off his foreign language, but it would not be a blessing to the church, and so is forbidden.

3. You asked, also, for an explanation of I Corinthians 14:18 where Paul says: "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." Paul simply means, of course, that he speaks more languages than any of those people at Corinth. That is why Paul could be a missionary all through the Roman Empire, since he was a cultured and educated man speaking many languages. There is not any case on record where Paul needed an interpreter, whether he was in Palestine, in Greece, or in Rome. He was a Roman citizen, a man of unusual education, speaking many languages.

But to understand verse eight-

teen you ought to quote verse nineteen, also, which says, "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." Again, Paul is simply talking about foreign languages. He knows many of them, he says, but would rather speak to people in a language that they can understand, even five words, than to speak ten thousand words in a foreign language they could not understand. Paul is not saying anything about the miraculous gift of the Spirit just there, but about speaking in natural languages, of which he knew many.

To be sure, Paul spoke in the power of the Spirit. But in verse fifteen he says: "What is it then? I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also." That is, one can be filled with the Holy Spirit and talk in English just as good as he can talk in some foreign language unknown to those present, and so Paul said he would rather do that. The rest of us will do well to follow Paul's example and seek to speak, in the power of God, in the language of people who are present and hear us and understand us. Five words that people understand are better than ten thousand words they do not understand.

4. You think you say, that speaking in tongues is probably the most important gift, and not the least, along with interpretation of tongues, as I said in my articles in *The Sword of the Lord*. If you read I Corinthians 12:28 you will see that the matter of talking in tongues, even though it was occasionally given in New Testament times and Christians could speak to others in their own language, who could understand them, by the power of God, yet that was the least of the gifts. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

Then in I Corinthians 14:1 the Scripture commands, "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that we may prophesy." Evidently prophesy is much more important than tongues. And in I Corinthians 12:31 we are commanded to "covet earnestly the best gifts." The best gifts are not tongues, according to God's own rule laid down in I Corinthians 12:28.

I was glad to have your letter. I write to you as a brother beloved. Let us remember that the power of God to win souls and do what He has commanded us to do is far more important than our sensual and fleshly enjoyment of a show put on before others. If God gives me a language to speak to Germans so they can understand the gospel, then I would speak it; but I would not brag about it. It would certainly not be as important to speak German as it would be to have the power of God on me to win souls. And I should not go about teaching people to try to talk in some other languages, whether they learned them or whether they imitate them, for the Scripture does not teach anything like that. We are not to forbid people talking in various languages, but if it is done in the church it is to be only some regular languages with people present who can interpret them, and it is to be done one at the time and never more than two or three in a service, and without any confusion.

I thank you for writing me, dear brother; and I pray God's blessings upon you.

In Jesus' name, yours,
John R. Rice.

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